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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,546	03/26/2004	Masahiro Satoh	Q80585	6135
23373	7590	01/11/2005	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			COHEN, AMY R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2859	

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/809,546

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL

Examiner

Amy R Cohen

Art Unit

2859

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/26/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Smith et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,543,146).

Regarding claims 1-7: Smith et al. teaches a directional measuring device that measures a direction of a body of the directional measuring device in a three-dimensional space including an X-axis indicating magnetic north on a horizontal plane, a Y-axis orthogonal to the X-axis in the horizontal plane, and a Z-axis orthogonal to the horizontal plane, assuming that the body points towards an x-axis, comprising; a tilt angle detector (514) that detects an x-axis tilt angle that is an angle between the x-axis and the horizontal plane and a y-axis tilt angle (514) that is an angle between a y-axis, which is orthogonal to the x-axis, and the horizontal plane; a converter that rotates (L), based on the x-axis tilt angle and the y-axis tilt angle, the x-axis and the y-axis to obtain a rotated-x-axis and a rotated-y-axis that are in the horizontal plane; a primary azimuth calculator that calculates a primary azimuth that is an angle between the X-axis and the rotated-x-axis (522); and an azimuth error angle extracting unit (524) that extracts, based on the x-axis tilt angle, the y-axis tilt angle, and the primary azimuth, an azimuth error angle included in the primary azimuth due to rotation by the converter (Figs. 5-7 and Col 8, lines 31-67).

Smith et al. teaches the directional measuring device wherein the azimuth error angle includes a first error angle by a predetermined amount based on a direction and a magnitude of each of the x-axis tilt angle and the y-axis tilt angle (Figs. 1-5 and Col 8, lines 31-67).

Smith et al. teaches the directional measuring device wherein the azimuth error angle includes a second error angle that represents a variation by which the first error angle varies according to a value of the primary azimuth (Figs. 6A, 6B and Col 10, lines 1-66).

Smith et al. teaches the directional measuring device comprising a secondary azimuth calculator that calculates, based on the primary azimuth and the azimuth error angle, a secondary azimuth that represents a direction of the body (Figs. 6A, 6B and Col 10, lines 1-27).

Smith et al. teaches the directional measuring device comprising a declination input unit that receives a declination at a present position of the body, wherein the second azimuth calculator calculates the second azimuth from the declination (Figs. 6A, 6B and Col 10, lines 1-27).

Smith et al. teaches the directional measuring device comprising: a first-axis geomagnetic force detector (502, 504) that detects a geomagnetic force along a first axis from among the x-axis, the y-axis, and the z-axis, which is orthogonal to both the x-axis and the y-axis; a second-axis geomagnetic force detector (502, 504) that detects a geomagnetic force along a second axis other than the first axis from among the x-axis, the y-axis, and the z-axis; a total geomagnetic force input unit (520) that receives a total geomagnetic force at a present position of the body, wherein the total geomagnetic force is a vector addition of geomagnetic forces along the X-axis, the Y-axis, and the Z-axis (Col 7, lines 19-67); and a geomagnetic force calculator that calculates a geomagnetic force along a third axis other than the first axis and the second axis, from among

Art Unit: 2859

the x-axis, the y-axis, and the z-axis based on the total geomagnetic force and the geomagnetic forces along the first axis and the second axis, wherein the primary azimuth calculator calculates the primary azimuth based on the geomagnetic forces along the first axis to the third axis (Figs. 3-5 and Col 7, lines 19-67).

Regarding claims 7-12: Smith et al. teaches a directional measuring method of measuring a direction of a body of the directional measuring device in a three-dimensional space including an X-axis indicating magnetic north on a horizontal plane, a Y-axis orthogonal to the X-axis in the horizontal plane, and a Z-axis orthogonal to the horizontal plane, assuming that the body points towards an x-axis, comprising: detecting an x-axis tilt angle that is an angle between the x-axis and the horizontal plane and a y-axis tilt angle that is an angle between a y-axis, which is orthogonal to the x-axis, and the horizontal plane (Col 7, lines 19-67); rotating, based on the x-axis tilt angle and the y-axis tilt angle, the x-axis and the y-axis to obtain a rotated-x-axis and a rotated-y-axis that are in the horizontal plane; calculating a primary azimuth (522) that is an angle between the X-axis and the rotated-x-axis (Col 7, lines 19-67); and extracting, based on the x-axis tilt angle, the y-axis tilt angle, and the primary azimuth, an azimuth error angle (524) included in the primary azimuth due to rotation by the converter (Figs. 1-5 and Col 8, lines 31-67).

Smith et al. teaches the directional measuring method wherein the azimuth error angle includes a first error angle by a predetermined amount based on a direction and a magnitude of each of the x-axis tilt angle and the y-axis tilt angle (Col 8, lines 31-67).

Smith et al. teaches the directional measuring method wherein the azimuth error angle includes a second error angle (calibration 650) that represents a variation by which the first error angle varies according to a value of the primary azimuth (Figs. 6A, 6B).

Smith et al. teaches the directional measuring method comprising: calculating, based on the primary azimuth and the azimuth error angle, a secondary azimuth that represents a direction of the body (Figs. 6A, 6B).

Smith et al. teaches the directional measuring method comprising receiving a declination at a present position of the body, wherein the calculating the secondary azimuth includes calculating the second azimuth from on the declination (Figs. 6A, 6B).

Smith et al. teaches the directional measuring method comprising: detecting a geomagnetic force (502, 504) along a first axis from among the x-axis, the y-axis, and the z-axis, which is orthogonal to both the x-axis and the y-axis; detecting a geomagnetic force along a second axis (502, 504) other than the first axis from among the x-axis, the y-axis, and the z-axis; receiving a total geomagnetic force at a present position of the body, wherein the total geomagnetic force is a vector addition of geomagnetic forces along the X-axis, the Y-axis, and the Z-axis (Col 8, lines 1-30); and calculating a geomagnetic force along a third axis other than the first axis and the second axis, from among the x-axis, the y-axis, and the z-axis based on the total geomagnetic force and the geomagnetic forces along the first axis and the second axis, wherein the calculating the primary azimuth includes calculating the primary azimuth based on the geomagnetic forces along the first axis to the third axis (Figs. 1-5 and Col 8, lines 1-67).

Regarding claim 13: Smith et al. teaches a computer program that realizes on a computer a directional measuring method of measuring a direction of a body of the directional measuring

Art Unit: 2859

device in a three-dimensional space including an X-axis indicating magnetic north on a horizontal plane, a Y-axis orthogonal to the X-axis in the horizontal plane, and a Z-axis orthogonal to the horizontal plane, assuming that the body points towards an x-axis, the computer program making the computer execute: detecting an x-axis tilt angle that is an angle between the x-axis and the horizontal plane and a y-axis tilt angle that is an angle between a y-axis, which is orthogonal to the x-axis, and the horizontal plane; rotating, based on the x-axis tilt angle and the y-axis tilt angle, the x-axis and the y-axis to obtain a rotated-x-axis and a rotated-y-axis that are in the horizontal plane; calculating a primary azimuth that is an angle between the X-axis and the rotated-x-axis; and extracting, based on the x-axis tilt angle, the y-axis tilt angle, and the primary azimuth, an azimuth error angle included in the primary azimuth due to rotation by the converter (Figs. 3-7, and Col 2, lines 10-43, all of the operations performed by the device are performed by a computer program).

Conclusion

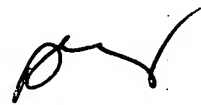
3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents disclose directional measuring devices Wan (U. S. Patent No. 6,836,971), Kato (U. S. Patent No. 6,768,957), Smith (U. S. Patent No. 6,539,639), Tamura (U. S. Patent No. 6,536,123), Hansen et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,953,683), Clymer et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,525,901), and Sobel (U. S. Patent No. 4,686,772).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amy R Cohen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2238. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 5 pm, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F. Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ARC
January 10, 2005



Diego Gutierrez
Supervisory Examiner
Tech Center 2800

